

FSA Disaster Loans Available To Farmers/Ranchers Hit By Fire, Drought And Tornado

Utah Farmers and Ranchers in Northern and Southern Utah who suffered qualifying crop losses associated with rangeland fires, the August 11th Tornado and drought may now apply for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Emergency Loans.

In three separate acts, the USDA and President Clinton recently made low interest loans available for Utah, Nevada and Arizona farmers and ranchers following disaster conditions. Eligible Utah counties are: Box Elder, Tooele, Salt Lake, Davis, Morgan, Summit, Utah Wasatch, Kane, San Juan and Washington Counties

On September 3, 1999 the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, designated five Nevada counties eligible for FSA emergency loans due to production losses associated with wildland fires. Utah farmers and ranchers in Box Elder and Tooele Counties are eligible for assistance because they are located adjacent to the designated counties.

On August 16, 1999, President Clinton designated Salt Lake County eligible for Farm Service Agency emergency loans due to physical and production losses associated with the August 11th tornado. Davis, Morgan, Summit, Tooele, Utah and Wasatch Counties were also named as they are contiguous to Salt Lake County.

On August 13, 1999, Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture, designated the State of Arizona eligible for Farm Service Agency emergency loans due to losses associated with drought conditions which occurred from January 1, 1999, and continuing. Three Utah counties, Kane, San Juan and Washington, were also named as they are contiguous to Arizona.

Loans are currently at a reduced interest rate of 3.75 percent for an amount not to exceed 80 percent of the loss incurred. The maximum loan cannot exceed \$500,000.00. Farmers and ranchers who feel they are eligible may apply for assistance at their local FSA County Office. The deadline for accepting applications is in the Spring of 2000.

Farmers/Ranchers are urged to file their applications as early as possible to speed loan approval and processing.

AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION IDENTIFIES KEYS TO IMPROVING AGRICULTURE'S FUTURE

An eight-month long agricultural study by the American Bankers Association identified three key areas that require new thinking and new strategies to address the challenges confronting rural America and the agricultural industry. The 10-member ABA task force reports that:

- Farmers and bankers must create a framework to better manage agricultural risks
- New avenues must be created for local bank access to national capital markets
- New tools must be created for new ventures and opportunities in rural America

"The number one challenge facing farming and ranching is to assure that production is profitable," said Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson. "Our food chain must remain unbroken, and currently the production link is in serious jeopardy," Peterson added.

The ABA report identifies various strategies that can help protect agricultural production. The complete report, titled, "Positioning Agriculture and Rural America For the 21st Century" can be accessed on the Worldwide Web at "http://www.aba.com/aba/PDF_Files/AGREP0899.pdf" or by visiting the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food web site at www.ag.state.ut.us

Agricultural Statistics Now On The Web

The USDA's 1999 Agricultural Statistics publication is now available on the Worldwide web by visiting the UDAF's website at www.ag.state.ut.us and clicking on the "Utah Statistics" button, then the "annual report" button.

The publication provides a detailed look at Utah's agricultural production. Also included is detailed information about weather and farming budgets. The budgets help producers evaluate the potential profitability of various agricultural commodities produced in the state.

The publication's Internet address is: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ut/ut_abpages.htm

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Disaster Loans Available



Keys To Improving Agriculture Listed



Commissioner Peterson Reigns Over Successful NASDA '99

UPEA Extra Mile Award

By: Carol Griffin

Department UPEA representative

The UPEA would like to institute an Employee Recognition program called The Extra Mile Award. This is open to all employees. The award is intended to recognize those employees who go the "Extra Mile" in doing their job or helping others do their job.

Recognition will be from the UPEA for any Agriculture employees. All who are nominated will receive an Extra Mile Award certificate. Then, on a quarterly basis, one nomination will be selected to receive a prize. These might include movie tickets, a gift certificate, or some other nice prize.

In addition, any nomination of UPEA members will be forwarded to the UPEA district for the UPEA recognition program. The nominations could also be submitted for the department recognition programs, if desired.

It is our belief that if we develop an attitude of gratitude for our fellow employees, we will all be working in a better and happier place.

Contact Carole Griffin 538-7120, Richard Sparks or Jack Small for more information.

The September Extra Mile Award winner is Virginia Slighting. Nominations for October are due November 1. Nomination Forms are available at Carol Griffin's desk.

INCENTIVE AWARDS APPLICATIONS

Remember!! You can submit incentive award applications for co-workers anytime through out the year. The criteria is: 1. Cost savings or increased earnings 2. Job efficiencies 3. Leadership or initiative 4. Exemplary performance on special projects 5. Exemplary performance on team projects.

Contact Norma or Karen for more information.

AWARDS LUNCHEON

The UDAF annual Awards Luncheon is set for noon, Tuesday, November 16, 1999 at either the State Office Building auditorium or the UDAF Building main conference room.

Commissioner Peterson Ends Term As NASDA President Emphasized Fair Trade, Producer Profitability, Food Quality

Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson's reign as President of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) ended September 29, 1999, during one of the best attended and most fruitful annual meetings in the association's 84 year history.

"It was an important year for agriculture and its leaders," Commissioner Peterson said. "From the challenges presented by natural disaster to the earth-shaking threats posed by worldwide economics, 1999 was a year that required state commissioners, secretaries and directors to accelerate their involvement," Peterson added.

The importance of these events was reflected in the attendance at NASDA 1999, held Sept. 24 to the 29th in St. George, Utah. The conference attracted representatives from every U.S. state and four territories.

Participation was up as state's leaders prepared to meet the challenges of the new century. New marketing strategies for familiar products were discussed. Commissioners were told that producers must assess the needs of the consumer, then tailor their products accordingly. Commissioners were told that products ranging from

wheat to beef must be packaged and marketed to meet the changing needs of the consumer.

As NADA President, Commissioner Peterson traveled to Pacific Rim countries promoting American made foods to Asian food buyers. Later in the year, those buyers traveled to the NASDA-sponsored U.S. Food Export Showcase in Chicago where they signed multi-million dollar deals with U.S. food producers.

NASDA and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food later hosted the three-nation ACCORD trade meeting in Salt Lake City where a framework for improved international agricultural trade was worked out.

"We want the same inspection standards placed on imported foods as are in place for domestic foods, and the ACCORD is helping us reach that goal," he added.

"We had the most organized and fruitful midyear meeting in memory," he added. "We made progress with Congress, the FDA, EPA and USDA on issues that helped local farmers and ranchers break through unfair governmental restrictions."

NASDA '99 inspired numerous comments such as those listed here.

"...I do not think I have ever been struck with such waves of inspiration and thoughts of the miraculous creation of the Lord as when we visited Zion National Park..." *Les Tindal, Commissioner of Agriculture, South Carolina.*

"You and your staff catered to all of our needs and their dedication and interest was most evident." *Jim Ake, Executive Director, Southern United States Trade Association.*



"It was a wonderful meeting and you and your staff were true examples of 'Western Hospitality.'" *Phil Ward, Director Oregon Department of Agriculture.*

Utah is a spectacular state. I'm still in awe of the beauty." *John Baugh, Director, Ag. Services & Regulations, Purdue University.*



(top) Commissioner Cary Peterson passes on the NASDA Presidency to Director Fred Dailey of Ohio. (bottom) Commissioner Peterson takes part in the commissioner's cow cutting contest at NASDA '99.